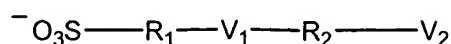


What is claimed is:

1. A compound having the general formula (I):



wherein

R_1 is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 1 to 10 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

R_2 is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

V_1 is a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle;

V_2 is a moiety comprising a carboxyl group and an unsaturated carbon-carbon bond.

2. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein the ring system of V_1 is an unsaturated, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic ring system.

3. The compound according to Claim 2, wherein the unsaturated or aromatic, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic ring system is selected from the group consisting of imidazole, pyrazole, 1,2,4-triazole, tetrazole and pyrazine.

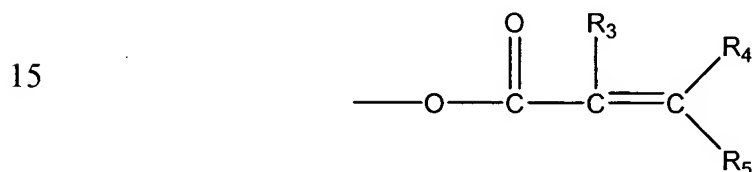
4. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein the ring system of V_1 is a saturated, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic ring system.

5. The compound according to Claim 4, wherein the saturated, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic ring system is selected from the group consisting of piperazine and imidazoline.

5 6. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein the bicyclic ring system of V₁ is an unsaturated, 9 member bicyclic ring system.

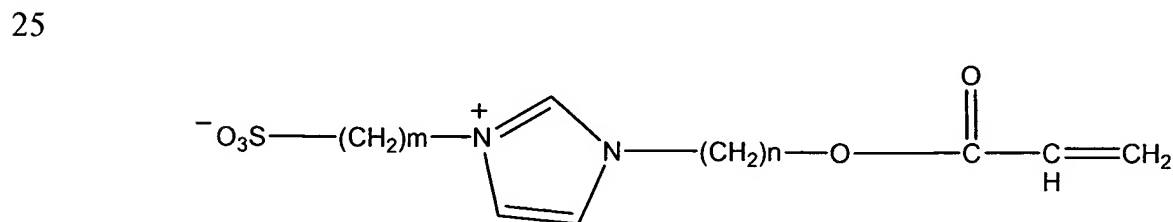
10 7. The compounds according to Claim 6, wherein the unsaturated, 9 member bicyclic ring system is selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, purine and indazole.

8. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein V₂ has the formula (II):



20 wherein R₃, R₄ and R₅ are independently selected from the group consisting of H and C1-C4 alkyl group, wherein the H and C1-C4 alkyl groups are independently substituted or not substituted.

9. The compound according to Claim 1, having the formula (III):



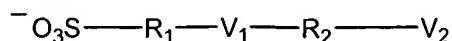
30 wherein 1 ≤ m ≤ 10 and 6 ≤ n ≤ 20,.

10. The compound according to Claim 1, having the structural formula (IV):



where $6 \leq n \leq 20$, $1 \leq m \leq 10$, $X = \text{Na}^+$, Li^+ , NH_4^+ , and V is (methyl)acrylate or another copolymerizable unsaturated group.

11. A process for the preparation of a compound having the general formula (I):



wherein

R_1 is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 1 to 10 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

R_2 is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

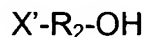
V_1 is a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle;

V_2 is a moiety comprising a carboxyl group and an unsaturated carbon-carbon bond,

said process comprising:

a) reacting a compound having a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle,

with an alcohol having the structure:



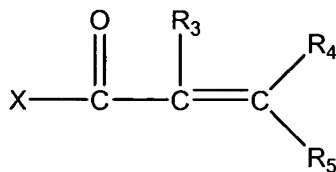
wherein

X' is halogen, and

R_2 is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

b) reacting the product obtained from a) with a sultone; and

c) reacting the product obtained from b) with a compound having the formula (IIa):



wherein

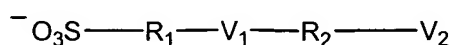
X is a halogen; and

R₃, R₄ and R₅ are independently selected from the group consisting of H and C₁-C₄ alkyl, independently substituted or not substituted.

12.A process for producing an ion conducting membrane, comprising copolymerizing at least one copolymerizable surfactant with a copolymerizable monomer in a bicontinuous microemulsion polymerization mixture, said mixture comprising :

i) about 15% to 50% by weight of water;

ii) about 10% to 50% by weight of at least one copolymerizable surfactant having the formula (I) :



wherein

R₁ is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 1 to 10 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

R₂ is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

V₁ is a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle;

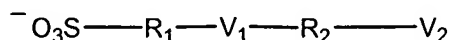
V₂ is a moiety comprising a carboxyl group and an unsaturated carbon-carbon bond;

and

iii) about 5% to 40% by weight of at least one copolymerizable monomer;

wherein said weight percents are based on the total weight of the microemulsion.

13. An ion conducting membrane comprising a copolymer, wherein said copolymer comprises a monomer having the general formula (I):



5 wherein

R_1 is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 1 to 10 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

R_2 is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

V_1 is a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle;

V_2 is a moiety comprising a carboxyl group and an unsaturated carbon-carbon bond.